



PO Box 97

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Newsletter

January 2008

- IRBA Helping to Prevent Invasive Species from Entering Lake Superior
- Annual IRBA Island Meeting and Pavilion Dedication
- Fifth Annual Fishing Tournament
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A newsletter to inform the members of ongoing activities within the Isle Royale Boater's Association, promote discussion among its members on various IRBA issues and share members' experiences related to boating, sport fishing, hiking, canoeing, and kayaking.

IRBA Helping to Prevent Invasive Species from Entering Lake Superior - Dave Hand & Jack Hartmann

The association has been working with the Isle Royale National Park to develop strategies for prevention of the Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus from entering Lake Superior. VHS is an invasive freshwater virus that infects many species of fish including most of those residing in the Great Lakes. The VHS is a rhabdovirus that was first found in rainbow trout in Europe and caused significant mortality and economic loss. More recently, many fish kills have already been documented in the lower Great Lakes Region. Known vectors for the transmittal of the VHS virus are through the use of infected fish bait, migrating fish, and ballast water discharge. The VHS can infect fish of all ages, is easily transmissible to other fish through bodily fluid exchange, and once a fish is infected, it will be a carrier and vector for spreading of the virus. The VHS virus is a coldwater virus, which means that it can thrive and infect fish in waters around 10°C or less and there has not been documented mortality in water temperatures above 15°C. In fact, the virus has rarely been isolated in fish in water temperatures above 15°C. As we know, Lake Superior water as a whole rarely rises above 15°C except in the near shore waters of a few very

sheltered bays in the heat of summer. If the virus finds its way into the Lake, it may infect fish, may never be eradicated and may cause major economic loss to the region, including the fishing on IR.

In September 2007, Dave Hand worked with Phyllis Green and other NPS staff to come up with an emergency method for treating ballast water in a cost-effective manner. Based on VHS virus outbreaks in Northern Europe and their experiences with treating the virus, we were able to come up with a simple method to treat ballast water using household bleach and vitamin C. A very small amount of bleach would be added to the ballast water for at least a few hours of contact time then the remaining residual bleach would be neutralized with vitamin C before the ballast water was discharged. This method was successfully implemented on the IR Ranger III in September 2007.

In October, three members of IRBA (Don Hannula, Bill Baxandall, Dave Hand) attended a conference in Duluth MN sponsored by the U.S. National Park Service, Midwest Region Entitled Science and Methods of Preventing the Expansion of VHS into the Lake Superior Basin. The two-day meeting was aimed at beginning dialog on a methodology to solve the potential threat of the virus before the spring shipping season begins. The meeting was a success in that it outlined the problem and challenges that need

to overcome to prevent the virus from spreading to Lake Superior and possibly Isle Royale.

Since the meeting, Dave Hand has been working with the IR NPS and others on proposals to have the Great Lakes Ship Initiative develop emergency disinfection guidelines that can be used by Lake Carriers for disinfecting their ballast waters. We are presently running into resistance from the Lake Carriers because they do not want to use sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) at very low concentrations to disinfect their ballast water and neutralize the residual hypochlorite ion with vitamin C. I guess it is just too easy of a solution to implement on an emergency basis. Presently, we are asking all Lake Carriers to perform emergency ballast water treatment to try to keep the virus out of the lake. On behalf of the IRBA, member Jack Hartmann is working on a proposal to provide funding for disinfection facilities to be placed at each boat launch along Lake Superior this summer for boaters to use to disinfect their boat before launching into the lake. This includes disinfection of the live wells and bilge water of the boats before entering the lake. In addition to the big Lake Carriers, we as boaters also have the responsibility to keep our boats free from picking up the VHS virus and transporting it into the lake.

Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results - Dave Hand

The Fifth Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Windigo on Saturday, July 14, 2007. The weather was sunny with some wind and waves. As the day wore on the winds began to calm down.

The rules of the tournament were each boat entered in the tournament would provide the highest total weight of three fish caught between sunrise and 2PM with weigh-in at Windigo Dock. The fish caught were donated to the fish fry at Windigo pavilion. Plaques were given to the boat with the highest total weight, second place and third place. Plaques were given for the three largest fish taken by trolling and

the largest fish taken in the tournament. IRBA member, John Evans (L'Anse MI) donated trophies for the event again this year. Thanks John! In addition, the new award up for grabs this year is the "Wooden Herring Award" which is given to either the Minnesota fishermen or the Michigan fishermen for the three largest fish by weight. The traveling trophy carries the island bragging rights for the year.

This year those Michigan fishermen did very well as the 'Miss Laurie' and crew [John Evans (Captain), Mike LeClaire, John Messer Jr., and Dave Barry] took first place with their three largest fish weighing a total of 31 lb 8 oz. (bobbing). The 'Water Witch' and crew [Bill and Pat Siler and John and Carol Drew] came in second place with the three largest fish caught weighing a total of 21 lb 8 oz. (trolling). Water Witch also won the trolling plaque. Third place went to 'Creative Touch' and crew [Dave Dueland, Mickey Litwin, Paul Dueland and Russ Wilber] with a total weight of 16 lb 17 oz. The largest fish was caught on the 'Nasty Habit' by Sue Falkner which weighed 13 lb 9 oz.

The Wooden Herring Award went to those Michigan Fishermen with a total weight of 34 lb 4 oz, as the Minnesota fishermen had a total weight of 30 lb 9 oz. Congratulations to those Michigan fishermen.



Wooden Herring Award Winners - Carol Drew, John Messer, Mick LeClaire, John Drew, John Evans, Bill Siler, Pat Siler and Dave Barry.



First Place Winners (Miss Laurie) - Dave Barry, Mike Le Claire, John Evans, and John Messer.



Sue Faulkner receives the Big Fish plaque.



Second Place Winners (Water Witch) - Bill Siler, Carol Drew, Pat Siler and John Drew.

Annual IRBA Island Meeting and Dedication of the Windigo Pavilion - Dave Hand

On Saturday, July 14, 2007 IRBA West End Chapter Representative Dwight Moe handed IR Assistant Superintendent Betsy Rossini the key to David E. Johnson Windigo Pavilion. The Johnson family was on hand for the dedication. It was a great tribute to an IRBA member who loved IR and always wanted to make a difference for those who loved to venture to the island. Dave will always be remembered by those seeking shelter from the elements on a cold and rainy day. All I can say is that it was a great dedication.



Third Place Winners (Creative Touch) - Mickey Litwin, Dr. Trout, Dave Dueland, Paul Dueland and Russ Wilber.

The IRBA annual island meeting was a huge success as the fish fry served over 80 people. A special thanks to the Bear for helping with the food logistics, and the many IRBA members that helped with the food preparation. Also, huge thanks go out to the IR park service employees at Windigo for providing facilities and services

to make the weekend very enjoyable. I hope to see you all at the annual meeting next year.



Dwight Moe presenting Betsy Rossini the key to the pavilion.



Windigo Pavilion plaque in memory of Dave Johnson



IRBA members attending meeting at the pavilion.

IRBA Apparel Available

We have IRBA apparel available including: hats, sweatshirts, and polo shirts. We also have nice jackets available by special order. You can order them by contacting Carol at 906 482 - 9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, January 29, 2008, Range Snowmobile Club in South Range.

IRBA Annual Island Meeting, Saturday 3:00 PM, July 19, 2008, Rock Harbor Lodge

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome. ----

***Please support your IRBA
PO Box 97
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